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It became clear to those attending the recent International Symposium on Agroterrorism that the threat of a malicious introduction of a FAD such as FMD represents a clear and present danger to the USA. NAHLN labs such as ours have been working for several years to bolster our diagnostic capabilities. Containment of a FAD attack depends more on rapid animal identification and tracking, and the willingness to enforce strict controls on animal movement, than it does diagnostic testing.

If one accepts that this danger is here and now, then the time frame presented for the NAID program to be implimented is far too long. As our country has prepared for war in the past we have accomplished greater tasks in far less time. Convincing the american public of the urgency for NAID is the critical factor. People only need hear FBI Director Mueller refer our current situation as being in "the millenium war" to make the point clear.

Please do all you can to shave at least a year off the current timeframe. The terrorists are not likely to be waiting.

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